

What is claimed is:

1. A method for mediating transactions between firms wherein:

means for arithmetic processing selects a supplier firm capable of achieving a product quality level satisfying a product quality level requested by a purchasing firm;

said selection being based on information about conditions for a product quality level requested by said purchasing firm for a product or part to be purchased and

information about a product quality level capable of being achieved by said supplier firm for said product or said part; and

negotiation solicitation information is provided to said purchasing firm and a selected supplier firm by way of a network.

2. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 1 wherein said

information about conditions for a product quality level requested by said purchasing firm

for a product or part to be purchased includes quality level index data obtained by executing an evaluation calculation program provided by a site belonging to an inter-firm

transaction mediator to calculate a quantitative evaluation of product quality levels.

3. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 1 wherein said

information about a product quality level capable of being achieved by said supplier firm for said product or said part includes product quality level index data obtained by

executing a quality calculation program provided by a site belonging to an inter-firm transaction mediator to quantitatively evaluate product quality levels.

4. A method for mediating transactions between firms wherein:

means for arithmetic processing selects a supplier firm capable of achieving a production quality level satisfying a production quality level requested by a purchasing firm;

said selection being based on information about conditions for a production quality level

requested by said purchasing firm for a firm supplying a product or part to be purchased and information about a production quality level of a supplier firm; and negotiation solicitation information is provided to said purchasing firm and a selected supplier firm.

5. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein said information about conditions for a production quality level requested by said purchasing firm for a firm supplying a product or part to be purchased includes production quality level index data obtained by executing a quality calculation program provided by a site belonging to an inter-firm transaction mediator to calculate a quantitative evaluation of a production quality level needed to obtain a certain product quality level.

6. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein said information about a quality level of a supplier firm includes production quality level index data obtained by executing a quality calculation program provided by a site belonging to an inter-firm transaction mediator to calculate a quantitative evaluation of a production quality level needed to achieve a certain product quality level.

7. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein: an inter-firm transaction mediator calculates a production quality level index needed by a supplier firm in order to satisfy a product quality level requested by said purchasing firm for said product or part to be purchased, said calculation being based on information relating to specifications obtained from said purchasing firm of said product or part to be purchased and information about a product quality level requested for said product to be purchased;

    said estimated production quality level index needed by a supplier firm being included in condition information for a production quality level of a supplier firm.

8. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein:

an inter-firm transaction mediator calculates a production quality level index of a supplier firm based on production conditions information obtained from said supplier firm; and

said calculated production quality level index of said supplier firm is included in condition information for a production quality level requested of a firm supplying said product or part to be purchased by said purchasing firm.

9. A method for mediating transactions between firms comprising the steps of:

receiving input from a terminal of a purchasing firm containing purchaser request information regarding a product to be purchased, including requested quality information, requested delivery date information, and requested price information, and calculating a composite request index based on said purchaser request information using means for processing arithmetic;

receiving input from a terminal of a supplier firm containing supplier request information regarding a product to be delivered, including production quality level information, possible delivery date information, and requested price information, and calculating a composite ability index based on said supplier request information using means for processing arithmetic;

extracting a supplier firm with a composite ability index fulfilling conditions of said composite request index; and

sending negotiation solicitation information to said supplier firm.

10. An inter-firm transaction method wherein:

a site belonging to a purchasing firm receives input from a terminal belonging to a supplier firm with production quality information regarding a product to be delivered;

said site uses means for processing arithmetic to select a supplier firm with a production quality index fulfilling a quality index requested by said purchasing firm; and

said site sends negotiation solicitation information to a terminal of said selected supplier firm.

11. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 1 wherein for one or at least two selected supplier firms, at least name and product quality level information is displayed on a display device of a terminal of said purchasing firm.

12. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 1 wherein name and product quality level information relating to said product or part of another supplier firm is displayed on a display device of a terminal of said purchasing firm.

13. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein for one or at least two selected supplier firms, at least name and product quality level information is displayed on a display device of a terminal of said purchasing firm.

14. A method for mediating transactions between firms as described in claim 4 wherein name and product quality level information relating to said product or part of another supplier firm is displayed on a display device of a terminal of said purchasing firm.